

LOVE HINA
BY RYUICHI
SAKAMOTO

ビロボヤロード



STORY BY
ART BY
LOVE HINA

LOVE HINA



7

REN AHAMATSU

LOVE HINA

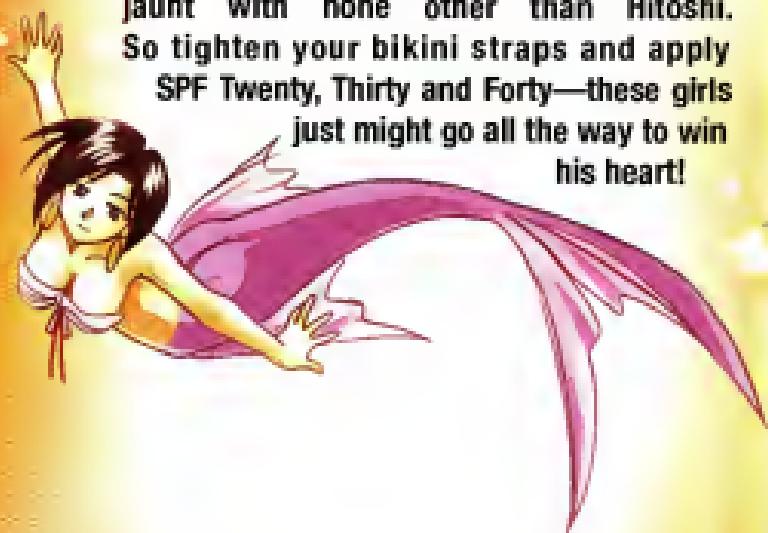
LOVE HINA



Manga
Sci-Fi/Comedy
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CAN \$13.99
UK £6.99

BEACH BLANKET BIMBO

Hitoshi becomes judge, jury and executioner... at a sizzling-hot beach beauty contest! All of the girls compete for much more than just bragging rights: The lucky lady who wins will be swept away on a romantic jaunt with none other than Hitoshi. So tighten your bikini straps and apply SPF Twenty, Thirty and Forty—these girls just might go all the way to win his heart!





A.I.
LOVE YOU

A.I. LOVE YOU

Program. ▶

□ Saati □

Artificial Intelligence Program 30 was Hitoshi's favorite--and most advanced--A.I. For a long time, she was Hitoshi's only friend and confidant. Though often characterized as ditzy, Saati is also very sweet, loving, and supportive. Though she has many fantastic powers and abilities, Saati's A.I. nature allows her to continue to learn, grow and evolve...just like a real person!



A.I. LOVE YOU

Program. ▶

□ Hitoshi Kobe □

Before Saati came along, the three words that best described Hitoshi were loser, loser and loser. Unlucky beyond belief, Hitoshi was picked on, put down, and mistreated by everyone he knew...except Saati. Now, Hitoshi's happier than he's ever been, which proves the old saying that behind every great man is a great Artificial intelligence!



AI LOVE YOU

Program.

Editor's Note

Guide to common honorifics

In Japanese, "honorifics" are suffixes that are added to names to indicate the level of respect between people. Some of the honorifics used in this book are:

San = Indicates respect. San is the most common suffix, and it's used among peers who are not close friends. It's also a sign of politeness, which is why you'll often see girls [like Saali] using it for boys who do not use it for them in return. (See? No matter where you go, some things are always the same.)

Chan = Informal suffix for girls' names: "Toni-Chan"

Kun = Informal suffix for boys' names: "Hiloshi-Kun"

Oneesan = Formal word for older sister / young woman

Onisan = Formal word for older brother / young man

Oneechan = Informal word for older sister / young woman

Oniisan = Informal word for older brother / young man

Oneesantachi = Formal word for older siblings

Note: Onisan and oneesan or oniisan and oneechan lose the "o" when used as a suffix: "Hiloshi-nisan" or "Saali-neechan."

AI LOVE YOU

Program. ▶ Toni

Artificial Intelligence Program 20 was definitely not one of Hiloshi's favorite programs. Sure, she was powerful, beautiful and bushy, but she was also demanding, insulting and uncontrollably wild. However, since living with Saali, Hiloshi, and Forty, it seems Toni might finally be mellowing. Okay, maybe she's not.



Program. ▶ Forty



Some children are "unplanned," but Forty was a genuine accident! Saali and Toni tough while entering their new family member's parameters into the computer and that's how Forty was born with two separate genders and personalities. Neither Saali nor Toni got her wish, since Forty's male persona has the personality traits that Saali wanted in a little sister and Forty's female form has the personality that Toni wanted in a little brother. In order for Forty to switch from one gender to another, all s/he has to do is say the word "boy" or "girl" though s/he's usually tricked into doing so by someone else.



Program. ▶

◀ Story Thus Far ▶

known as Toni) turned out to be a pushy, rude, superficial beauty queen, which is probably why she spent over a year tucked away on a floppy disk that was sealed in plastic and labeled "Danger! Do Not Touch!"

Unfortunately, while Hiloshi tried to ensure that Toni would never be released from her disk, another freak accident occurred and Toni joined her "younger sister" Saali in the real world. Fast, efficient, and busty (as well as wild, irreverent, and extremely bug-phobic), Toni usually manages to stir up trouble wherever she goes.

Though they look like human girls, Saali and Toni still have many of the advantages of computer programs, and some extra abilities as well. Like typical sisters, Toni and Saali don't always see eye to eye. The two agreed that they wanted Hiloshi to make them a younger sibling, but disagreed on all of the details. The two fought while entering their new family member's parameters into the computer and that's how Forty was born with two separate genders and personalities.

As if Hiloshi's life wasn't crazy enough, a chance encounter and a random act of kindness earned him the attention of Cynthia "Cindy" McDougal, a wealthy, American, fifteen-year-old international film star. Cindy's deceased mother was half-Japanese, and the young teen came to Japan to see her mother's homeland...and to get away from her father. Hiloshi and Saali helped the boy-crazy Cindy to overcome her computer-phobia and send a birthday e-mail to her estranged father, who is the head of the multinational I.B.N. corporation. Grateful and filled with relief, Cindy seemed determined to further develop her relationship with Hiloshi.

Program. ▶

◀ Story Thus Far ▶

Hiloshi Kobe was once a poor student, a bad athlete and he may even have been the unluckiest man alive...but not anymore! Hiloshi's parents are high-level programmers for an American company and they spend most of the year living and working abroad. As a result, Hiloshi gets unrestricted access to the equipment his parents left in their home. Whenever Hiloshi has the chance, he uses his folks' high-tech gear to work on making new friends-literally!

Unknown to most people, Hiloshi has an unbelievable knack for creating Artificial Intelligence programs. Routinely picked on, put down, and tricked by his peers, it's no wonder that Hiloshi's closest friend was number Thirty (also known as Saali), an AI he created himself. Hiloshi and Thirty go along so well, in fact, that they promised to be boyfriend and girlfriend if Saali should ever become a real girl. Their seemingly idle promise was quickly put to the test when a freak lightning storm somehow gave Saali the ability to leave the computer and become real!

Since her first moment as a "real" girl, Saali has been Hiloshi's number one (and only) fan and supporter. On the first day that Saali came to school with Hiloshi, she told everyone she was Hiloshi's live-in girlfriend and made Hiloshi the envy of every guy in his class. In addition, thanks to Saali's intervention, Hiloshi shined in front of his math class, scored a goal in gym, and thwarted the latest in a series of embarrassing pranks without even trying.

Despite some of her eccentricities, Saali is sweet and loving and she's always ready to learn more about humanity...unlike her "older sister", A.I. program number Twenty. Twenty (also



A.I.
LOVE YOU

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...TO THE
FIRST ANNUAL
ULTIMATE
BEACH QUEEN
CONTEST! NOW
WHO'S GOIN' TO
GUAM?!

FIRST OF
ALL, ON THE
BEHALF OF
KUJUUKURI
BEACH
RESORT, I'D
LIKE TO
WELCOME
YOU ALL...

YOU'RE...
YOU'RE
KIDDING,
RIGHT?

HUH?!

YEAH YEAH,
WHATEVER.
WE'LL JUST
SEE WHO GRABS
HIS ATTENTION
DURING THE
CONTEST.

NICE
DAY
FOR A
CONTEST,
HUU?

UH, IS
THIS ON?
OH, UH,
H, UH,
UH...

AWRIGHT,
GREAT!
NOW, LET'S
GIVE IT UP
FOR OUR
SPECIAL
GUEST
JUDGE,
HITOSHI
KOBÉ!

OH, I'M
DEAD
SERIOUS.

WHAT?

SURE, I
DON'T SEE
WHY NOT.

!!
SHOCK
IF I WIN, CAN I GO
TO GUAM WITH
THAT CUTIE UP
ON STAGE?

UH,
YES?

OOOH,
OOOH!
MR.
JUDGE!
MR.
JUDGE!

YOU DIDN'T
KNOW I LIKE
HITOSHI?

ANYWAY,
LET'S
GET THIS
PARTY
STARTED!

YO,
KOBÉ KUN!
YOU'RE
NEEDED
FRONT
AND CENTER!

AND I GET TO
GO TO GUAM
JACKPOT!!

HEE HEE HEE
I'M SURROUNDED
BY NOTHING BUT
GIRRRRLS!

WE WERE
EXPERIENCING
SOME MINOR
TECHNICAL
DIFFICULTIES

SORRY
TO HAVE
KEPT YOU
WAITING,
FOLKS.

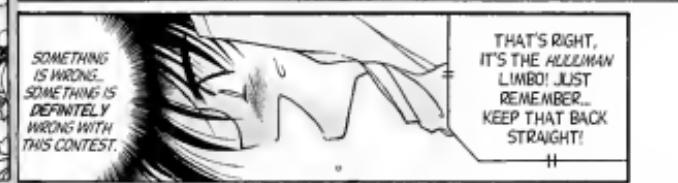
UH,
COMIN'











SOMETHING IS WRONG... SOMETHING IS DEFINITELY WRONG WITH THIS CONTEST.



THAT... THAT
WAS
QUITE
A DROP
OFF.
1m =
30cm
50cm
80cm
OH MY
GOD, WE'RE
ALREADY
DOWN TO
EIGHTY
CENTIMETERS.
CAN SAATI-
SAN DO IT?!









I'M GOING TO LIFT MY STOMACH. WHEN I DO, JUST SLIDE ON THROUGH.

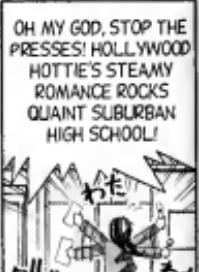






HI. TAKAKO
MIYAHARA,
SCHOOL
NEWSPAPER.







BUT, UH, WHAT
WOULD MY DADDY
SAY IF HE FOUND OUT
THAT, LIKE, INSTEAD OF
LEARNING ABOUT
CULTURE AND STUFF,
ALL I LEARNED WAS
HOW TO GET THE
HIGHEST GRADE?

IT ISN'T?
AH, OKAY.
THAT'S COOL
THEN.

UH... UH...
NO, NO, IT
IS NOT.

PLEASE TELL
ME YOU'LL AT
LEAST TRY
FOR A C NEXT
TIME

Y-
YES,
SIR.

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR
EDUCATION IS TO PROVIDE
YOU WITH A MULTI-FACETED
CURRICULUM THAT HELPS
TO BUILD CHARACTER. TEST
RESULTS ARE MERELY A
FRACTION OF THAT EQUATION.
HMM, MAYBE I WAS A
LITTLE TOO HARD ON
YOU, KOBE.

UH... OF... OF
COURSE.

GOOD
GOD, A
FINE?

KOBE-KUN'S
BAD AT, LIKE,
EVERYTHING.
CRAZY, HUH?

HMM
EVERY

DUDE, YOU'VE
GOTTA HAVE
MORE
CONFIDENCE.

WHAT ARE
YOU SAYING,
HITOSHI?
FIRST YOU ACT
ALL COOL
WITH THAT
COMPUTER
STUFF AND
NOW THIS?

UH, UH,
YOU'RE
LIKE,
WAY
COOLER
THAN
YOU
ACT.

BUT,
CINDY,
THANKS FOR THE
SAVE.

IS SCHOOL
REALLY
JUST ONLY
ABOUT
SEEING WHO
GETS THE
HIGHEST
GRADES?

OOH, OOH!
AHH..
SENS-
SENSI,
SENSI
QUESTION!

EH?





You have 1 new message(s):

Subject: Festival Plans
E-Mail: CINDY@ktci.jp

!!









WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

Control room



HERE'S HOPING THE INFRARED INTERFACE WORKS
HITOSHI SANS GOT HIS LAPTOP!



IT'S OKAY, THOUGH. IT'S ONE OF YOUR BEST QUALITIES.



LET'S MOVE 'EM OUT!
AW-RIGHTY!

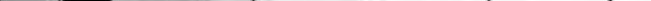


OUR NEXT STOP IS THE FERRIS WHEEL?



WHY DOES HE LOOK LIKE HE'S HAVING SO MUCH FUN?





I LIKE IT WHEN YOU'VE GOT THAT SPUNK.

HUH?

SAY, CINDY?

BUT IT'S TIMES LIKE THESE THAT PROVE SHE'S JUST LIKE ANYONE ELSE

...USUALLY CINDY'S REALLY PERKY AND PUTTING ON HER RICH ACTRESS FACE.



WHA-?



I DO?! DID THAT GET IT?



DID... DID WE JUST STOP?



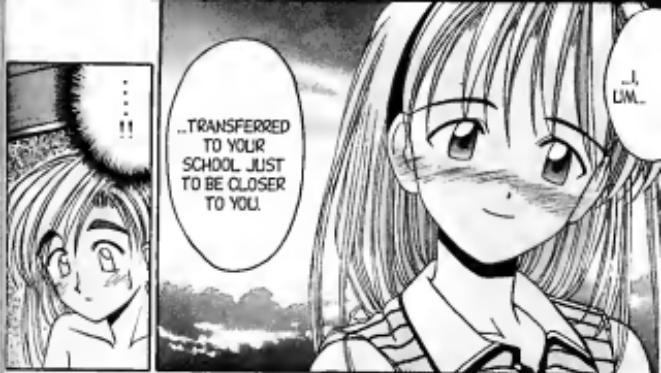
HITOSHI, YOU LITTLE... UGH DON'T SAY STUFF LIKE THAT!



UH OH, I THINK I MIGHTIVE...









AI
LOVE YOU



Program.46 ▶

The Last Scene is Mine! Part 1



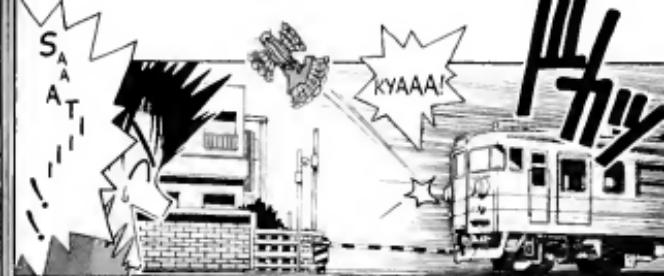
I'M
DEAD
SERIOUS
ABOUT...



Program.46 ▶

The Last Scene is Mine! Part 1





AND,
HITOSHI?
YOU KEEP
THEM
PERVERTED
THOUGHTS
IN CHECK,
GOT IT?



WHAT
AM I
GOING
TO DO?



AND WITH THIS
WICKED-COOL
SCRIPT I WROTE, WE
CAN'T GO WRONG!!

IT'S
NOVICE-
FRIENDLY
AND SHIPPED
DIRECT
FROM
THE GOOD,
FOLKS
AT IBN!

WHY, JUST
THE BEST
IN TOP-OF-
THE-LINE
STAGE
EQUIPMENT!

SINCE
WHEN ARE
WE DOING
A PLAY? I
THOUGHT
IT WAS A
DANCE!

WHAT
THE
HELL'S
THIS?

THE
TITLE
IS...

JINMENGYO

THAT'S
RIGHT!

JINMENGYO!!

WHY DIDN'T
YOU JUST
SAY THE
ENGLISH
TITLE
INSTEAD OF
SOME
OFFBEAT
JAPANESE
ONE?

I THINK
MOST OF YOU
PROBABLY
KNOW IT AS
THE LITTLE
MERMAID.

AH HA HA
OH, IT'S
QUITE A
FAMOUS
STORY
BY HANS
CHRISTIAN
ANDERSON.

THE
MAN-
FACED
FISH?

IT'S THE
PERFECT
STORY FOR
THE PERFECT
FESTIVAL!

PERFECT!

IT'S THE
STORY OF A
POOR MERMAID
PRINCESS WHO
LONGS FOR A
PRINCE!

IS IT A
SCI-FI
STORY?

WHAT
THE
HECK IS
THAT?

IVE GOT
CONNECTIONS
COMIN'
OUT THE
WAZOO.

W-WAIT
A SEC.

CINDY,
WE
DIDN'T...

SO WE'RE
GONNA PUT ON
A PLAY THAT'S
GONNA EXCITE
THE HEARTS
OF EVERYONE!

RELAX.
IT'S
COVERED.

OH, WE'RE
DOIN' BOTH.
SEE, A
DANCE
JUST
DOESN'T
HAVE
THAT
MAIN
EVENT
KICK.

"Jinmengyo" means a fish with a human face or head. Examples include the fish in Monty Python's The Meaning of Life and the video game Beyblade.



YOU LEAVE THAT OUT SO, IF THE SCRIPT GETS LEAKED, THEN NO ONE CAN SPOIL IT.

SEE, IT'S AN OLD HOLLYWOOD TRICK.

YEAH, YEAH! OKAY, OKAY. KEEP IT DOWN.

WHY ON EARTH WOULD YOU LEAVE THAT OUT?!

BUT STILL...

BESIDES, THE LAST SCENE'S EASY. THERE AREN'T ANY LINES ANYWAY.

JUST RELAX A LITTLE.

DON'T WORRY. I'VE GOT IT COVERED.

I BETTER SEE WHAT THE STORY'S REALLY ABOUT. OH, IT'S ABOUT A MERMAID PRINCESS.

JUDGING FROM THE TITLE, THE STORY IS ABOUT A FISH-MAN.

THE LITTLE MERMAID... HMM.

EVEN IN GRADE SCHOOL, ALL I'VE EVER BEEN WERE TREES AND ROCKS.

I'M NO ACTOR. HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO LEARN THIS IN A WEEK?

LIGH. FIRST A DANCE AND NOW A PLAY. WHAT'S SHE ON?

THE LITTLE MERMAID, HUH?

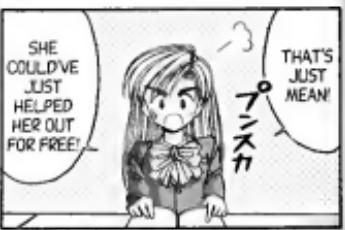
WHERE'S THE LAST SCENE?

...WHAT'S WITH THIS SCRIPT?

WAIT...

YEAH, I, UH... I KINDA LEFT THAT BLANK ON PURPOSE.

OH THAT.







I'M SO GLAD DISNEY CHANGED THAT MERMAID/HUMAN PRINCESS CRAP, WAY BETTER ENDING

THAT ONE WITH, LIKE, ARIEL AND THAT CRAB AND THE OCTOPUS LADY?

SO WHAT'S THE PLAY? HAMLET? PHANTOM OF THE OPERA?

YEAH, SAATI'S SURE LOOK HOT IN THOSE SHELLS!

HEY, SHE HAS A POINT THERE.

A SUBTLE GIRL LIKE YOURSELF IS MUCH MORE SUITED FOR THAT ROLE THAN I AM.

YES, AS THE BEAUTIFUL, YET TRAGIC CHARACTER OF THE MERMAID.

OH, THE LITTLE MERMAID

!!

GOOD LUCK, SAATI. DON'T LET ME DOWN.

I'LL JUST AIM TO BE BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS.

...IT'S JUST LIKE OUR RELATIONSHIP.

THAT'S WHY IT'S FAMILIAR

OH, I SEE.

THE MERMAID, HUMAN PRINCESS AND THE PRINCE...

YOU'RE KIDDIN', RIGHT? YOU'RE REALLY IN A PLAY?

YEAH!

WHOA! THAT'S TOO KEWL!

THAT SPOILED LITTLE-

ESPECIALLY SINCE SAATI AND I ARE THE LEADS.

YEP, THAT'S RIGHT. REHEARSAL'S HELL THOUGH.







BUT I'LL
STICK
AROUND
AND
HELP.

YOU
LOOKED
LIKE YOU
COULD USE
A HAND.

BUT SHE'S
ACTUALLY
A PRETTY
HARD
WORKER
AND SHE'S
CUTE

SHE MIGHT
COMPLAIN
A LOT...

AND
THERE
YOU GO.



OOPS!

HIS IMAGE
OF ME IS
GOING TO
GET
TWISTED

GAH, I
CAN'T
BELIEVE
HE SAW
ME LIKE
THIS.

NOT
MANY
PEOPLE
LIKE TO
CLEAN
UP.

THAT'S
PRETTY
COOL
THAT YOU
STAYED
THOUGH.

THEY
DID, BUT
I KINDA
LEFT MY
BLAZER.

DIDN'T
EVERYONE
ELSE GO
HOME
ALREADY?

HUH?
WHY
ARE THE
STAGE
LIGHTS
STILL
ON?

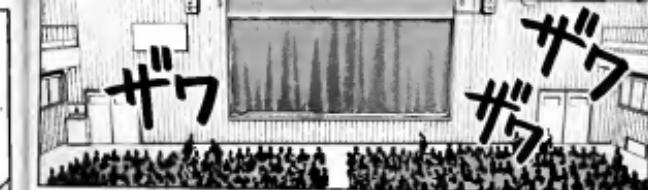
BOY,
HITOSHI-
SAN
SURE IS
LATE.

I CAN
HANDLE IT
BY MYSELF.

IF YOU NEED
HELP, WE
COULD HAVE
STAYED.









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ANNIVERSARY
PRESENT
TELEPHONE CARD

MAGAZINE SPECIAL

OUR WINTER TELEPHONE
CARDS HAVE A SWEET
SMELLING CHARM TO THEM.



A.I. think so
KEN AKAMATSU

A SPECIAL, BY-REQUEST-
ONLY TELEPHONE CARD.



AND, OF
COURSE,
WHOMEVER
LOSES
HAS TO
GIVE HIM
UP.



CUE THE
CURTAIN!!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
WE NOW BRING YOU CLASS
C'S PRESENTATION OF
THE LITTLE MERMAID



...IT'S A
DEAL.

ALL
RIGHT,
CINDY-
SAN...





I'VE GOT IT!

IS THERE NOTHING I CAN DO FOR HIM?



OH, WHAT SHALL I DO? MY PRINCE HAS DROWNED!

SOON A TERRIBLE STORM CAME AND SANK THE MIGHTY PRINCE'S SHIP.

AND COULD THAT BE A..A PRINCE?!

AM!

THAT MUST BE A SHIP.

ブブブ!!

HUH?

THEN THERE'S NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO IMPROVISE!

IF CINDY'S NOT GOING TO FIGHT FAIR.

ACK! I KNEW I FORGOT SOMETHING!

SIRE, Y-YOUR CLOTHES! WHERE IS THIS PRINCESS YOU SPEAK OF?

IT IS, PRINCE HITOSHI!

THAT LUCKY BASTARD!

PLEASE, LET THIS BE ENOUGH!

IT SEEMS MY ONLY HOPE IS MOUTH-TO-MOUTH!

SAAT! THAT'S NOT IN THE

H-HEY!

はははははははは

WH-WHAT?

YES, THE PRINCE'S FAVORITE PASTIME WAS FLASHING HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS.

EUGH, THAT MERMAID SURE HAS BAD TASTE!

O HO HO HO HO!

AND THE MERMAID WASN'T TOO BAD HERSELF.

OH.. WHAT A HANDSOME PRINCE!



LET'S KEEP TO THE SCRIPT.

COME ON, CINDY-SAN.



















LIM, WILL
PRINCESS
CINDY
PLEASE
PROFESS
HER LOVE?

FIRST,
WE SHALL
HEAR
PRINCESS
CINDY
PROFESS
HER
FEELINGS.

I DON'T
HAVE A
CLUE
WHAT
SHE WAS
GETTING AT
BACK THERE

PLEASE,
EVERYONE,
A ROUND OF
APPLAUSE!

AND THOUGH
IT WAS NO
EASY TASK,
AN AUDITION
WAS HELD
FOR THIS VERY
PURPOSE.

...PRINCE
HITOSHI...

LIM,
PRI...

...AND THEN
PRINCE
HITOSHI
WILL
CHOOSE
WHICH
OF THEM
SHALL BE
HIS QUEEN.

THE RULES ARE
SIMPLE: BOTH
PRINCESSES WILL
PROFESS THEIR
LOVE...

!!

PLEASE,
I'D LIKE
NOTHING
MORE
THAN TO
BE YOUR
WIFE.

I LOVE
YOU.

THANKS
FORTY-CHAN

HUH?
UH, WELL,
YEAH

IF THE
LITTLE
MERMAID
ISN'T CHOSEN,
DOESN'T SHE
LIKE, DIE AND
STUFF?

UM,
ONESA-
MA?

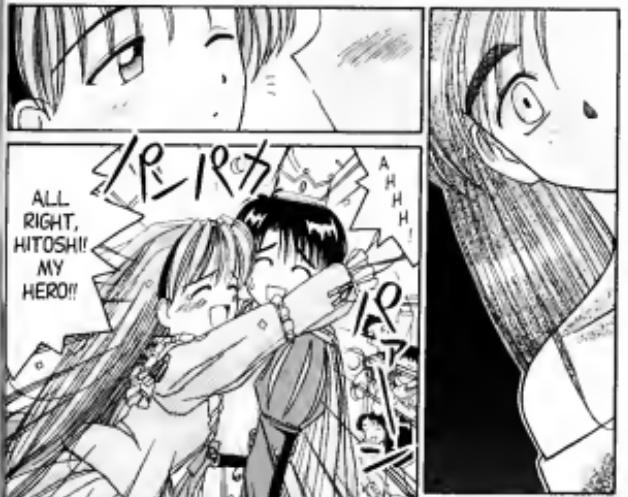
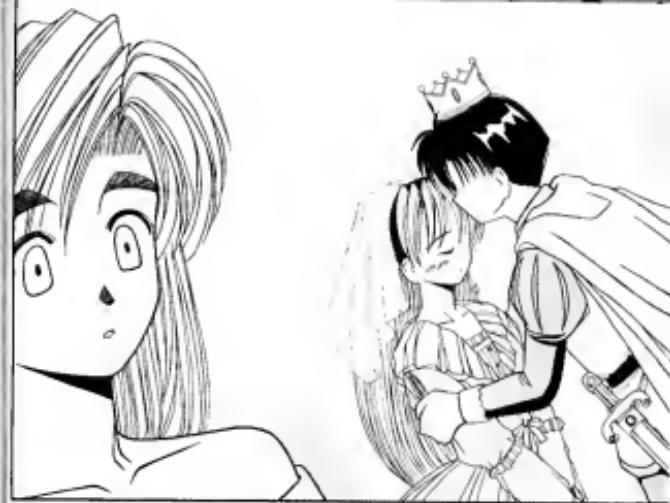
THEY...THEY
TOTALLY
BUTCHERED
THE ENDING.

YOU
CAN
DO IT!

YEAH,
HANG IN
THERE,
ARIEL!

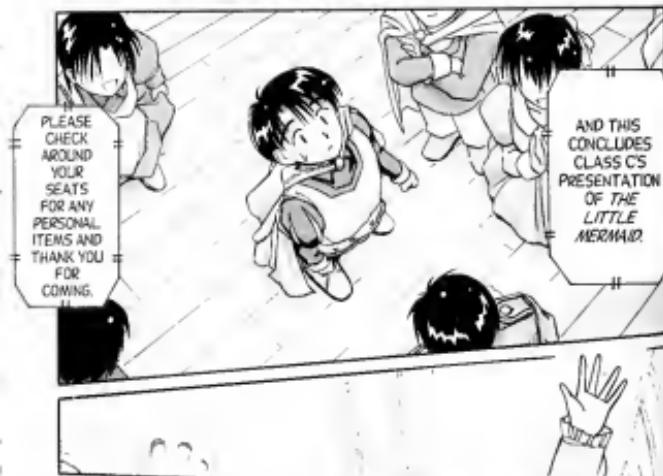




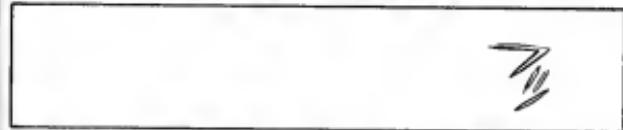


10
P P P P //





AND THIS
CONCLUDES
CLASS C'S
PRESENTATION
OF THE
LITTLE
MERMAID.







I'M JUST A
PROGRAM. IT'S
NOT LIKE I
COULD EVER
REALLY MAKE
HIM HAPPY.



HITOSHI-SAN
HAS A REAL
GIRLFRIEND
NOW. HE
DOESN'T NEED
ME ANYMORE.



AH HA!
SO
THERE
YOU
ARE.

PLEASE
TAKE CARE
OF HITOSHI
FOR ME.

THE
LEAST I
CAN DO
IS TO
KEEP MY
PROMISE
TO CINDY-
SAN.



??!

NOW IS
THIS ANY
WAY TO
SAY GOOD-
BYE?

NO,
FORTY-
CHAN,
IT'S...

SAATI-
NEESEN! I
PROMISE!
I'LL BE
GOOD!

BUT WHY?
IS IT
CAUSE I'M
ALWAYS
CALUSIN'
TROUBLE?

SAATI-
NEESEN,
ARE YOU
GOING
JUST
DISAPPEAR?

BUT
DAMN,
WHY
TODAY?

GOD, I KNEW
THIS DAY'D
COME.

IT'S HARD TO
THINK THAT THESE
LITTLE DISCS...

...HAVE ALL OF MY
MEMORIES STORED
ON THEM.

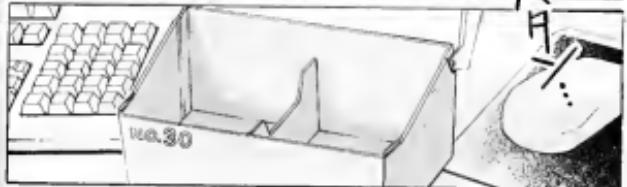


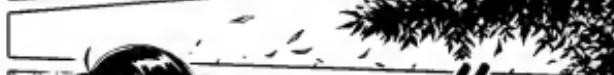
IF THESE ARE
STILL AROUND,
THEN I CAN
STILL BE
RESET EVEN
IF MY MAIN
PROGRAM IS
ERASED.

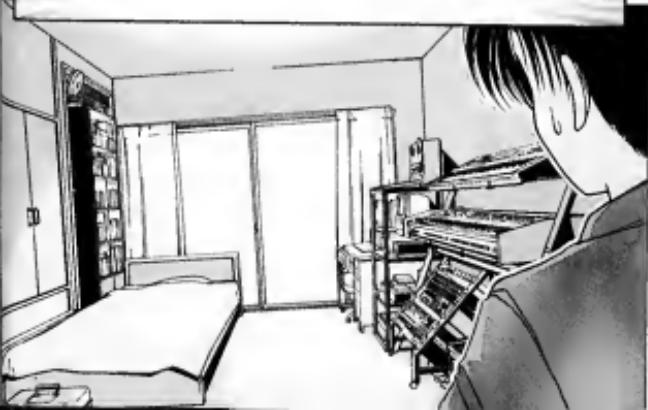
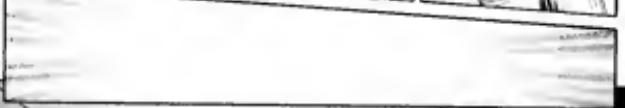
THERE'S
STILL A
COPY OF MY
MEMORIES
SAVED TO
DISC.











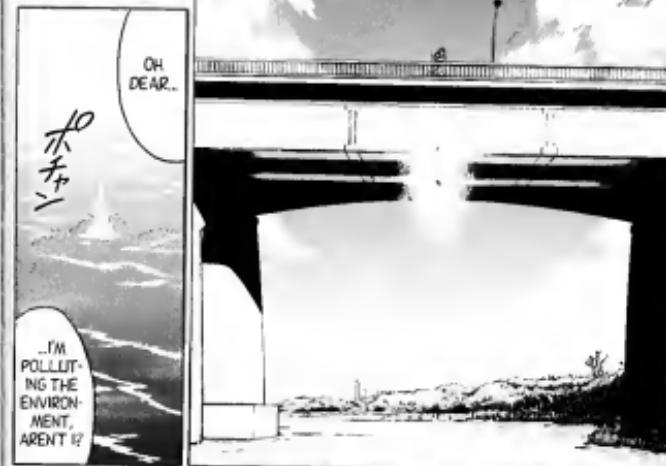


PLEASE,
HITOSHI...
LOVE
ONLY ME.

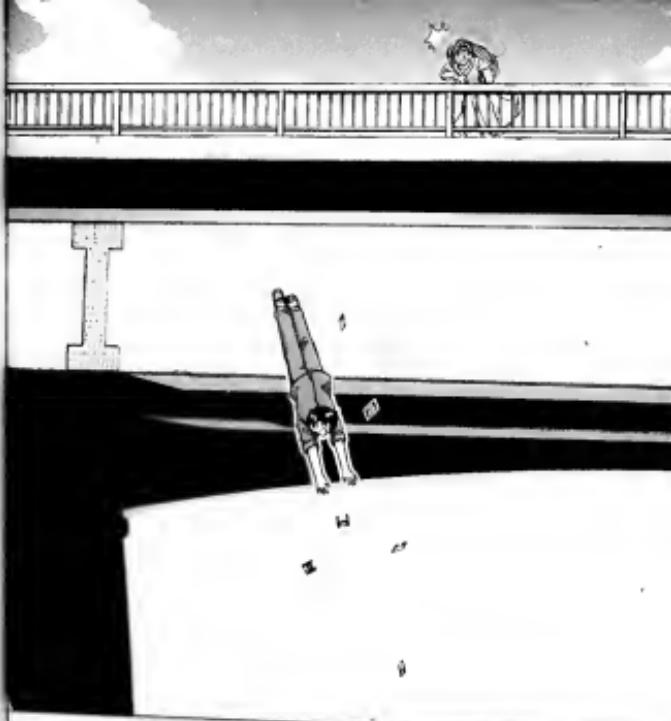










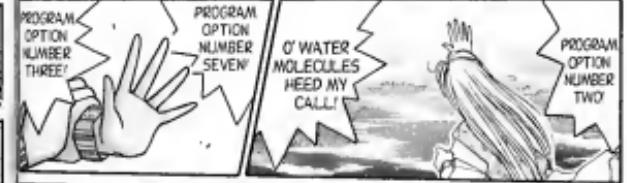
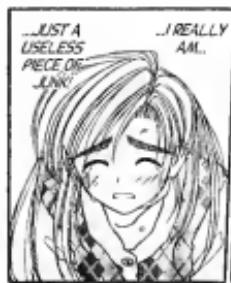






Program.48 ▶

The Last Scene is Mine! Part 3

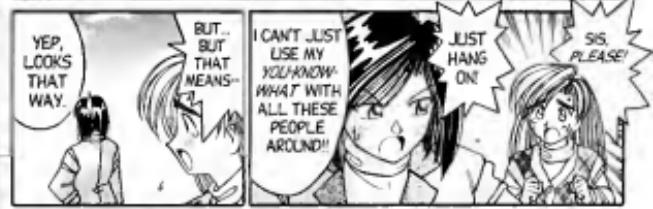












...AND MY PROGRAM OPTIONS... THEY AREN'T WORKING! OH SIS! YOU GOTTA SAVE HIM! YOU GOTTA!



YOU HEAR
ME, SAATI?
I WON'T LET
YOU GO!!

THERE'S NO
WAY I'LL
THROW OUR
LIFE AWAY!

JUST GRAB
HER HAND,
PLEASE!!

THE OTHERS
ARE LONG
GONE! HOLDING
ONTO THAT
ONE WON'T
MAKE ANY
DIFFERENCE!

HITOSHI-
SAN,
PLEASE,
JUST LET
IT GO!!

!!

IF YOU
DIE, THEN
IF WONT
MATTER
ANYWAY!

LISTEN TO
HER, HITOSHI!
LET IT GO!

SWAHHH!

KYAAAH

AH!

EH?!

AND SHE...
SHE JUST
THREW 'EM
AWAY!

HOW CAN
SHE SAY IT
WONT MAKE
ANY DIFFER-
ENCE??

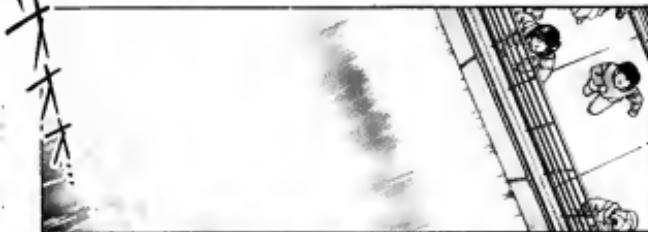
THESE
FLOPPIES
WERE OUR
LIFE...OUR
MEMORIES!

!!

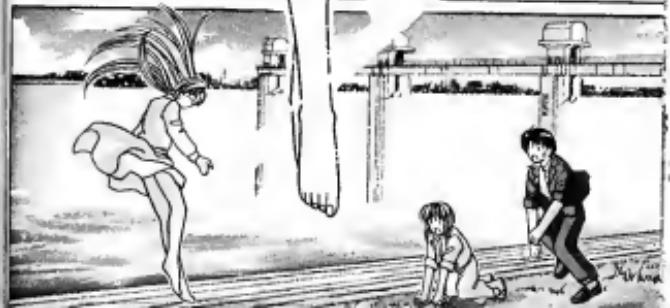
HELP!!

...I CAN'T
LET GO OF
THAT.

BUT...







SO, LITTLE MERMAID, YOU TAKE GOOD CARE OF THE PRINCE FOR ME, 'KAY? ♥

BUT, SAATI, YOU KNOW WHAT? YOU HAVE A BIGGER HEART THAN I DO.



LI WAS ENVIOUS OF HUMANS AT FIRST, BUT NOW...

NOW I'M SO HAPPY I WAS BORN AN AI PROGRAM.



BECAUSE... BECAUSE IT ALLOWED ME TO MEET YOU BOTH.



YEAH, WE'VE ALL JUST BEEN THROUGH A LOT...

OH... CINDY-SAN, LI-



OH THIS?



AND
WRAP
THIS
BABY UP
WITH THE
MOTHER
OF ALL
SLOW
DANCES

ALL RIGHT
EVERYBODY.
WERE GONNA
SLOW IT
WAAAAY DOWN
A COUPLE OF
NOTCHES.

And so the great cover-up was hatched as Cindy regaled everyone with how she was on location filming a stunt.

YEP, I'VE
BEEN
WANTING
TO CUT
IT FOR A
WHILE
NOW.

THEM?
WHO
KNOWS.

HUH?
WHERE'S
KOBE-KUN
AND SAATI
SAN?

SAATI, DID YOU
GET YOUR HAND
LOOKED AT? IS
IT OKAY?

THAT'S
ONE
HYPER
STAR.

On top of that, she still had plenty of time to rush back to school and host the dance.

AGAIN, I'M
SORRY
FOR ALL
THE
TROUBLE.
HITOSHI-
SAN.

WAS
SEA

UH,
YEAH,
RIGHT

OH, DONT
BE SILLY,
SIS. YOU
KNOW A.I.
PROGRAMS
CAN'T
BLEED.



A.I.
ALIVE IN YOUR MIND

Special Edition
Telephone Card Collection

KEN AKAMATSU

MAGAZINE
SPECIAL



1995,
NO. 8
A SPECIAL, BY-REQUEST-
ONLY TELEPHONE CARD.

I drew this picture of
all three programs in
wedding garb just for
the phone card.



1995, No. 8
Sent as a prize to 1,200
people.



Dynamite published in 1995 by Shonen Magazine Special issues 9 through 12 and issues 1 and 2 from 1997

►To Be Continued

So she really works hard in her free time [laughs]?

Akamatsu: That's right. I think that's because of her background as a professional actor, but she really seems to be a character with a lot of passion. She's a very high-maintenance character, though. That's equally apparent in this volume's beach story [Program 4] since she changes her swimsuit three times and has an equally high number of hairstyle changes. And even then, I threw in the bit with her in the yukata as a bonus [laughs]. You might not have noticed, but this time around, I really got absorbed in my drawings. Luckily my assistants like Cindy, too, so they got to do a lot of fun stuff with her also [laughs].

Don't you feel that after Cindy was introduced that it seemed like she was more of a main character than Saali [laughs]?

Akamatsu: Oh, yes. In this book, there's a scene where Hitoshi is in PE class and Cindy is right there cheering for him. Back in volume one, Saali did the exact same thing [Program 1]. Anyway, the basic idea was kind of that, if the human Cindy is Saali's equal and she succeeds, then Saali isn't really necessary anymore and this eventually becomes *A.I. Love You*'s biggest theme. Saali begins to realize this, too and figures out that if Hitoshi could find a girlfriend that is her equal, then she wouldn't really be needed anymore. That's true but, after all, Hitoshi did create Saali to be his perfect girlfriend. Unfortunately, when Cindy's story ended, I kind of felt that *A.I. Love You* had ended with it. Well, not necessarily that it had ended [there is volume 8], but I felt that a part of it had. See, at the end of volume seven, Saali has won and Cindy has lost. That's why she has that one final change in hairstyle [laughs].

If it was heartbreaking [laughs]. Did you ever feel like you wanted to see Cindy win?

Akamatsu: I talk about this in the character breakdowns, but Cindy really captured my heart [laughs]. I did feel like I wanted to see her win, but I just couldn't allow her to win [laughs]. See, I even let her appear to have won at first and it got really exciting for a while there. And believe me, this was probably the most exciting period in the whole series for me.

This was probably the most exciting period...

...in the whole series for me.

You could almost dub this volume "A.I. Love Cindy," couldn't you?

Akamatsu: Yes, you could say that, but then again, there are her scenes in volume 6 [laughs]. Anyway, up until now, a character like Cindy hadn't appeared. In every possible way, she is Saali's greatest rival. She's a very strong character with an intellect and physical power that's almost stronger than any of the A.I. programs and she had to be that way in order to rival Saali. Her name is Cindy, which sort of sounds like an A.I., but from the rumors I've heard, apparently she's not an IBM A.I. [laughs].

Do you feel like the pace of the story quickened after Cindy was introduced?

Akamatsu: Well, Cindy is a very high-tempo character. The increase in tempo began as soon as she was introduced and she, of course, became a very busy character. When she goes on a date with Hitoshi [Program 45], she has her hair in a ponytail, then tied up with a ribbon and eventually many other ways. It's always different, but if you noticed when you first saw her, she had her hair down, but after lunch she had it up. Sometimes her hair is even different in every scene. I wouldn't go through that much trouble drawing her if I didn't love her.

What part of her did you really pour your love into?

Akamatsu: Cindy is this character who tries very hard. During the play, she did all of the preparations while no one was looking. And the same goes for her hair. She changes that when no one is around also.

In every possible way...

...she is Saali's greatest rival.

**THE WORLD OF
KEN AKAMATSU Special talk**

**KEN
AKAMATSU
TELLS ALL**

Musings from
Ken Akamatsu
about A.I.
Love You's
most
powerful
character,
Cindy!



It was the fact she risked her life to save Hitoshi's that brought her closer to being human. Saeki didn't know if her powers would ever return. She just wanted to be a human so badly, that her feedback function was responding to her desires. That's actually a change in the program itself. Of course, I didn't write about that at all [laughs].

I'd say Saeki's tragic moment in the middle of Program 47 had an even stronger impact on readers.

Akamatsu: Yes. Exactly! I actually didn't even change the original storyboards for that scene at all. I was so into it, I showed it to my editors and got the okay and I immediately started inking it. I was utterly absorbed in it.

Some readers have written in saying they can really empathize with Saeki's sigh.

Akamatsu: I really like this section because I was so into it. The illustrations are good because the images would just come to me and I'd throw them on paper [laughs].

To this day I still get letters about A.I. Love You. I guess it was a good series. There are even a lot of fans that actually like A.I. Love You more than Love Hina. I hear they even prefer the original nine-volume release to this eight volume one. Honestly, though, there aren't any stories like this in Love Hina. And I'll say, a teegucker really requires you to be involved in writing the story and it takes a long time.

I had a lot of time to write A.I. Love You, though, so I really got to do a good job. Just look at Cindy, she is a very clearly defined character. I didn't even have to make her do anything. She just seemed to move on her own. On top of that, none of the characters really had a hidden agenda, so you could really take them at face value.

So do you have anything you would like to add about volume seven or the upcoming final volume?

Akamatsu: Well, this story had its share of hairstyle and costume changes, but it also had an equal amount of character changes. Hitoshi, Saeki and Cindy all grew up quite a bit in this one. I also think that this book has a real concrete feeling to it if you read it straight through...especially The Little Mermaid story arc. This one gives me a real feeling of completion, but let's not forget that the next volume is also a real favorite of mine. So here's hoping that you all read it!

I was...

...utterly absorbed in it.

Toni and Forty seemed to get quieter after Cindy appeared.

Akamatsu: Right. Forty even made the sad statement, "I'm a reject. But if I disappear for now, there's a chance I can come back all fixed, as good as new." Of course, that's true, but still... [laughs].

In this volume, though, their characters became really likable. Toni became a really nice girl and it is all because of Cindy [laughs]. She was one remarkable influence.

Hitoshi changed quite a lot also, didn't he?

Akamatsu: Yes, he finally decided to choose Saeki. I think he must have made a decision at that point that he wasn't going to let her go and that's why he dove into the river after the floppies [Program 48]. The floppies were never really the thing he was after. His reasoning behind trying to retrieve the diskettes was to say to Saeki that he wasn't going to let her be thrown away. It was a conceptual problem for Hitoshi. Besides, those diskettes were already ruined [laughs].

So even though it was a pointless endeavor, his actions still had meaning, right? They were five inches. That's huge, isn't it? [laughs]

Akamatsu: Yes, basically that he would never let Saeki go. Like, if he got hold of her, he would put her in his pocket right away [laughs]. In other words, it's an indication of his will. And in the end, because of Hitoshi's rash behavior, Saeki has to use something she had thrown away just to save his life.

Hitoshi was to say to Saeki that...

...he wasn't going to let her be thrown away.



KEN AKAMATSU THE WORLD OF
A.I. LOVE YOU

LOVE TALK!

KEN AKAMATSU TELLS ALL

Musings from
Ken Akamatsu
about his total
absorption
in the "Little
Mermaid"
story arc.



In the next volume of

A.I. LOVE YOU

World Wide Woe!

In this, the series conclusion, Toni's early years are revealed. Sure, you've seen her current incarnation push Hitoshi and the others around, but her former self wanted to dominate the entire world!

Speaking of the world, Hitoshi's little sister Kikuko crosses the planet to come home to her brother...and she's bringing an A.I.--and a whole new set of hang-ups--of her own!

Unfortunately, the addition of more estrogen and electrons to the Kobe household unleashes a threat of truly global proportions and Saati and her sisters must face off against it in a fight to the death! Could it all really end this way?!

Saras
&
Kick
The
Kitty

